


**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Bureau of Prisons**



**PROGRAM STATEMENT
Cut and Puncture Resistant Gloves**

Approved by	 William K. Marshall III Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons
DPI	CPD
Number	5578.01
Date	March 19, 2026

Summary of Changes

<i>Program Statement Rescinded:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 5576.05 Cut and Puncture Resistant Gloves (10/16/2017)
<i>Changes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Updates terminology throughout (e.g., Management to Captain).▪ Adds references to necessary program statements.▪ Removes any references to the Union and local negotiations.▪ Updates the program statement number to 5578.01

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This program statement authorizes and regulates the issuance and accountability of cut and puncture resistant gloves at all Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) institutions. Gloves are considered personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff when required under this program statement. Being designated as PPE, the use of authorized gloves is intended to protect staff while conducting searches of inmate housing units, work areas, and common areas of any institution. Gloves are mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to be worn during activities specified in this program statement and in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 1910.138 and the Program Statement **National Occupational Safety and Health Policy**.

a. Program Objectives.

- Gloves are issued to, and will be the responsibility of, all Bureau institution staff.
- Staff are required to wear gloves during searches identified in this program statement.

- All cut and puncture resistant gloves are properly secured and accounted for when not in use while inside the secure perimeter of the institution, due to the potential security risk associated with the gloves.
- Procedures for placement and storage of the gloves in work areas are developed locally.

b. **Institution Supplement.** None.

2. WEAR REQUIREMENTS

All staff, while working in any security level institution and using sound correctional judgement, are mandated to wear the Bureau-issued cut and puncture resistant gloves in conjunction with nitrile gloves any time they perform a “blind search” in housing units, work areas, common areas, and when conducting area searches and searches of inmate property. A blind search is considered one where a staff member places their fingers or hands on inmate property or surfaces which cannot be seen or viewed safely. Sharp objects may be hidden in mattresses, bedding, clothing, pillows, on top of lockers, under bed frames, under sinks, etc. Searches must be conducted in accordance with the Program Statement **Searches of Housing Units, Inmates, and Inmate Work Areas**.

Failure to wear the authorized gloves for these activities violates OSHA regulations and the requirements of this program statement and may be subject to disciplinary action. Given the unpredictable nature of law enforcement correctional work which could require any staff member to engage in search activities at any time, staff must always have their issued cut and puncture resistant gloves with them and readily available while on duty.

3. ISSUANCE AND MAINTENANCE

The Captain at each institution must ensure all staff are issued gloves, which they will have with them every day they are on duty. For those rare occasions where staff may need gloves for search activities (e.g., forgot gloves, damaged gloves) the Captain will ensure several sets of gloves in varying sizes at designated storage sites, with nitrile gloves, are available in each housing unit or other work area in the institution to be chitted out. All gloves provided to staff for such purposes will be returned at the end of the shift and accounted for on an inventory form. Each institution will keep additional loaner/replacement gloves in a reserve stockpile in the Lock Shop, Control Center, or an appropriately secure area outside the secure perimeter of the institution.

The Captain or designee is the point of contact for inquiries related to the issuance of gloves. They will answer questions or concerns in reference to the issuance of gloves.

A new staff member will be fitted for gloves during Introduction to Correctional Techniques, Phase 1 training and must complete the BLU course Searching Inmate Living Areas (Cut and Puncture Resistant Gloves). A pair of gloves from current inventory will be provided until the

new gloves arrive and must be returned upon receipt of the new gloves. Staff who transfer will maintain the gloves they were issued at their previous institution. All staff will be issued a new set of gloves when they are determined to be expired in accordance with vendor specifications.

Staff are responsible for the accountability of gloves issued to them. Each staff member will be given the vendor's instructions for proper care and maintenance of the gloves. Staff are responsible for the routine cleaning and storage of their issued gloves.

4. REPLACEMENT

The Captain or designee will determine the process of surveying and disposing of gloves returned by staff for any reason (e.g., warranty expiration, damage) and must inform staff of this process. During regular reissuance periods, staff are required to return expired cut and puncture resistant gloves before obtaining a new issue. Failure to do so, may result in disciplinary action.

If a staff member loses their gloves at any time, they must report the missing gloves in writing to the Captain or designee immediately upon becoming aware of the gloves are missing. The Captain or designee will provide a temporary set of gloves until the lost gloves are recovered or replaced.

If a staff member asserts their gloves have become unserviceable, they will notify the Captain or designee and request a replacement. If warranted, a new set of gloves will be issued from the current inventory or within a reasonable time. If replacement gloves are not immediately available, the Captain or designee will provide the staff member with temporary gloves.

REFERENCES

Program Statements

National Occupational Safety and Health Policy
Searches of Housing Units, Inmates, and Inmate Work Areas

Federal Regulations

29 CFR § 1910.138

Other References

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Mandatory Training Standards. Learning and Career Development Branch, HRMD (4/2025)

ACA Standards

American Correctional Association Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th Edition: 4-4082, 4-4192

American Correctional Association Performance Based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities, 5th Edition: 2-ALDF-2C-01, 4-ALDF-7B-08, 4-ALDF-7B-09, 4-ALDF-7B-10

American Correctional Association Standards for Administration of Correctional Agencies, 2nd Edition: 2-CO-1D-05

Records Retention Requirements

Requirements and retention guidance for records and information applicable to this program are available in the Records and Information Disposition Schedule (RIDS) on the Bureau's intranet site.